

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY

Germany (Russian Zone)

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SUBJECT

Maneuver Tactics; 57 Guards Rifle
Division Goes to Eisenach; OB Notes

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1. Ohrdruf (J15) maneuvers, [redacted] watched them closely, emphasized concentration of armored fire power. On one occasion, he observed sixty tanks with mounted infantry under the protection of strong AT gun and artillery fire. The guns changed position repeatedly, but closely followed the tanks. As a rule, assault guns were evenly mixed in with tank formations. The assault guns also carried infantrymen. 25X1X
2. Naumburg (J39) maneuvers were held in company, battalion and regimental strength. Many mortars and AT guns were employed, and there was heavy support by light, heavy and very heavy machine guns. Joint action of air force and ground troops was not observed, nor was there any sign of bridging activity. However, 57 Guards Rifle Division's engineer battalion, together with a pontoon train, was scheduled to leave Naumburg for Eisenach on 10 and 11 May. [redacted] 25X1C
3. 57 Guards Rifle Division, now about seventy percent motorized, entrained for the Eisenach area on 7 and 8 May at Naumburg-Ost, Zeitz and Weissenfels. Included in the shipment were eight SU-152, eighteen 47 mm AT guns, and thirty-two 57 mm AT guns (single tire, without muzzle brake). The artillery regiment contains four battalions of 76.2 mm guns and one battalion (four batteries) of 122 mm howitzers.
4. Also on 7-8 May, an assault gun brigade entrained at Weissenfels (J39) for the Eisenach area. It possesses forty-nine SU-152, seven of which were shipped at a time together with six to eight trucks. Two SU-152, believed to be command vehicles, were specially shipped; also, three combat cars 85, eight medium trucks, and an unreported number of passenger cars resembling jeeps.
5. Jena (J66) lost most of its troops at the end of April. An artillery brigade is said to have gone to the Kindl training area, leaving a rear echelon in Jena-Zwätzen.
6. Halle-Böhlberg (D92) was evacuated by a tank regiment, which went south, at the end of April. 25X1X
7. Between 1 and 10 May, ten to twelve trains daily were observed on the Dresden-Gera-Erfurt line. Loads were chiefly tanks, AT guns and artillery. All trains were bound for the Gotha-Eisenach area.
8. Altes Lager airfield (E09) held 100 fighter aircraft (YAK 1 or 3) in early

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May. In early April all planes on this field had red propeller noses and a red longitudinal strip along the fuselage; in early May, approximately sixty of the planes had changed the color of the above markings to blue.

9. Stendal (Y85), when visited on 6 May, was occupied by approximately one division of mechanized troops. En route to the airfield, now used for training purposes, source observed twenty-eight SU-85, twenty-three SU-152, seven JS-3, and two JS-2, the latter equipped with 152 mm guns. There is also an AA regiment stationed at the airfield, believed to have about forty guns of undetermined calibre.
10. Güstrow (T98) held only a Kreis Komendatura and a small MP unit on 2 May. The airfield has been completely dismantled. Barracks are being converted into apartments. Although the ammunition depot has been partially dismantled, local residents aver that 2,400 German workers are employed in a remaining section where they are reconditioning German artillery ammunition.

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